

U. S. ARMY AIRSHIP ROMA WRECKED WITH LOSS OF 34 LIVES; PLUNGES 1,000 FEET AGAINST ELECTRIC WIRES AND EXPLODES; THREE OF 45 ABOARD ESCAPE UNHURT FROM FLAMING MASS

BONUS DEATH THROES SEEN IN TAX PROTEST; BACKERS JOINING FOES

Commander MacNider of Legion Stirs Strong Resentment by Telegram to Harding—Seventy Representatives Unite Against Sales Levy—Three Senators Announce Hostility to the Gratuity Scheme.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.
Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.
Several important developments to-day combined to support the impression that the bonus raid on the Government finances and the business of the country is dead, for the time being at least.
It may get a new lease of life as a result of the persistent activities of its friends, who refuse to admit defeat, but the belief generally prevails in both houses of Congress that it will be put away in cold storage after a gasp or two.
That it will crop out later and at every session of Congress for many years to come is highly probable. But unless the present situation should radically change, executive officials and the more level headed members of the two houses are convinced that no measure which will stand a chance of receiving Presidential approval or repassage in the Senate over a veto will get beyond the House of Representatives.

Causes of the Change.
The causes that contributed to the belief that the raid is to be temporarily suspended are these:

1. The approval of a "round robin" circulated in the House by the delegations from several States pledging the signers to oppose the adoption of a sales tax for financing the bonus or for any other reason, the effect of which makes the passage of a bonus bill practically impossible.

2. The statement of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Commissioner of Internal Revenue Haines to the Ways and Means Committee of the House this afternoon that the adoption of a tax on sales or increase in any other form of taxation will prove disastrous to the country as well as greatly increasing the cost of administration through the creation of a new and expensive Treasury bureau.

3. Indignation and resentment among executive officials and members of the two houses over the impertinent telegraphic demand made by Commander MacNider of the American Legion that the bonus bill be put through without further delay, a communication that is expected to elicit a reply from the President clearly stating his own feelings in the matter.

4. The pronounced growth of sentiment in favor of postponing for the present consideration of any legislation for the benefit of ex-service men except a bill making the most liberal provision for the sick, wounded and helpless victims of the world war, which is already assured.

5. The opening of a bitter fight between Senators and Representatives representing the agricultural bloc on the one hand and the advocates of bonus legislation on the other over the sales tax.

Experienced observers in both houses of Congress were in unanimous agreement to-night that under present conditions it will be impossible to pass a bonus bill in either branch and especially in the Senate. The optimism of Senators and Representatives who favor adoption of the sales tax to finance the bonus raid was punctured by Secretary Mellon at his conference with the members of the Ways and Means subcommittee. The Secretary told the legislators he had not changed his mind as to the undesirability of issuing short term certificates or long time bonds or imposing further taxes on the people.

Indorses Harding View.
Secretary Mellon indorses President Harding's suggestion that the least objectionable way to raise money for the bonus raid would be through the adoption of a general sales tax on production rather than on specific commodities. He said a sales tax of from 2 to 4 per cent. would be needed to raise an annual revenue of \$450,000,000, which would be necessary to carry out the terms of the bonus measure.
The Secretary said that in his judgment and in that of the experts who accompanied him the Smoot plan of

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Calder Will Not Vote for Bonus, He Announces

SENATOR WILLIAM M. CALDER came out definitely against the bonus bill last night at a dinner of the Ulster County Society at the Biltmore Hotel. In his speech he said:
"As far as I am concerned I shall not vote for any bill giving the well men a cash bonus until the sick and wounded have been taken care of."
Later to reporters Senator Calder said:
"I shall not vote for the bonus bill. This is my first definite announcement."
Representative Charles B. Ward of the Twenty-seventh district, comprising the counties of Columbia, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster, also said he would not vote for the bonus.

NATIONAL G. O. P. CLUB VOTES DOWN BONUS

Favors Giving Nothing to Man Who Can't Show Wound or Is Not Disabled.

WORDS OF MELLON CITED

Incapacitated Soldiers Are Well Taken Care of, Say Resolutions Adopted.

Vigorous opposition by the National Republican Club to the granting of a Federal bonus "to any soldier who cannot show a wound or who was not disabled in the service" was recommended last night in a resolution adopted by the members of the club at the regular monthly meeting.

The report, which was submitted by the club's committee on national affairs, declared the proposed bonus legislation means suicide from the standpoint of party politics, while "as public policy, it is madness."
The resolution calls for a Congress inquiry into expenditures of sums already appropriated for the aid of disabled veterans, "to the end that the country may be assured that the veterans are receiving the fullest possible benefit from the appropriations made in their behalf."

The report was adopted with only a few dissenting voices and after a brief discussion. Copies of the resolution were sent to President Harding, members of the Cabinet, the members of both houses of Congress and the members of the National Republican Committee.

The report declared the question of care of disabled or indigent soldiers was not involved, going into detail in a description of the hospitals and soldiers' homes maintained by the Government for its incapacitated fighters, and citing Secretary Mellon's figures showing that the Government already is spending nearly \$450,000,000 a year for relief of disabled veterans.
"The Federal Government is now spending large sums at rates ranging from \$25 to \$125 a month for compensation to soldiers who are in the hospitals," the resolution said. "In every Northern State except Maine and Utah, comfortable Soldiers' Homes have been established, toward the maintenance of which the United States Government contributes \$120 per year per inmate."
"The national Government itself maintains ten splendidly equipped Sol-

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Flapper, House Party Queen, Rum and Chorus Girl Under New Ban

EASTON, Pa., Feb. 21.—Dean A. K. Heckel announced to-day that the faculty of Lafayette College had voted unanimously to abolish junior week, the reason given being that "in the present abnormal state of society, with its spirit of revolt and disregard of social standards and conventions, the faculty has found it difficult to secure proper cooperation of students, the chaperons and their guests in the maintenance of decorum."
"Junior week is no place for New York chorus girls or the vile products of bootleggers," added the dean. "Because some other universities and colleges permit such occurrences and are morally rotten to the core there is no reason why Lafayette should be. Some say the conditions should be overlooked because of the present state of society, the 'flapper' and the 'house party queen.'"
"The duty of the college is to provide leaders and to send out men fitted for society, not men to be led by 'flappers' and 'house party queens.'"
At a mass meeting after the announcement, the student body voted to ask for student self-government.

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MRS. PARKINS TURNS ON WHISKY PLOTTERS WHO MADE FORTUNE

Woman Indicted in Three Cities Is Grilled on Dry Office Betrayals.

MONEY USED LAVISHLY

\$3,000 Is Paid for Stolen Telegrams—O'Connor's Rubber Stamp in a Saloon.

Mrs. Mary E. Parkins, under indictment here, in Washington and in Pittsburgh in connection with liquor scandals, turned Government witness yesterday at the trial before Federal Judge Webb of Edward Donegan and Miss Regina Sassone, who are charged with conspiracy in stealing valuable records from prohibition headquarters in this city and violation of the Volstead act.

Mrs. Parkins and Miss Sassone were employed as clerks in the office of Charles R. O'Connor, former director of prohibition, when they were arrested in a suite of rooms in the McAlpin with Donegan and Sigmund ("Beary") Rosenfeld, a gambler, who died recently. Mrs. Parkins was indicted jointly with the other defendants, and in taking the stand against her former associates and alleged conspirators caused a sensation.

At the time of her arrest Mrs. Parkins was released in \$50,000 bail furnished by the National Surety Company with Donegan as cash indemnitor. Soon after she began to testify the surety company at the request of Donegan canceled the bond, but when court adjourned Judge Webb released the woman in custody of her counsel, Thomas J. Spelley.

Under direct examination by David V. Cahill, Assistant United States Attorney, the witness said she had introduced Donegan to Harold R. Stephenson, a Secret Service agent, who was sent here from Washington to trap the alleged conspirators in December, 1920. Mrs. Parkins told of a conversation between Donegan and Stephenson in which the latter said he was handling permits for the release of large quantities of liquor and spoke of paying the Government agent \$100 for every barrel he could get out of storage.

Always Had Rolls of Money.

"Did Donegan ever show you any money in the McAlpin Hotel?" asked Mr. Cahill.

"He always had rolls of money," replied the witness, with a smile.

"Did Miss Sassone ever tell you that Donegan had ever given her anything?" "She spoke to me about Donegan giving her money and taking it home and also that he had given her presents of jewelry."

"Did Donegan ever give you any money, and what for?"

"Yes, he gave me \$1,000 for introducing him to people."

Under cross-examination by William J. Fallon, chief counsel for the defense, the witness admitted that while employed as a trusted clerk in Mr. O'Connor's office she had knowledge that illegal transactions were going on, not only here but in other cities, but did nothing to prevent them. She said she had charge of card index files with the names of applicants for the withdrawal of liquor.

The witness said she began her work as a clerk in prohibition headquarters in June, 1920, and received \$133 a month and went to live at the McAlpin with a Miss McDaniel in room 1,725, for which she paid \$150 a day, which caused laughter in the courtroom. She said she was introduced to Donegan as a Mr. Joyce and that he hired an adjoining room in the hotel.

"Long before you ever met Donegan did you not know a man by the name of Martin, counsel for liquor dealers in the Bronx and his partner, a Mr. Houlihan?" Mr. Fallon asked.

"Yes, both men came to see me at the McAlpin," the witness replied. "But I did not know Mr. Martin was attorney for liquor interests."

Witness was asked if she had not turned over Government papers to Mr. Martin and Mr. Houlihan or had had monetary transactions with them, to which Mrs. Parkins refused to answer on the ground that it might tend to incriminate her.

"It was to show that this witness was the main spring in the whole transaction and was involved with many others long before the trial," Mr. Fallon said.

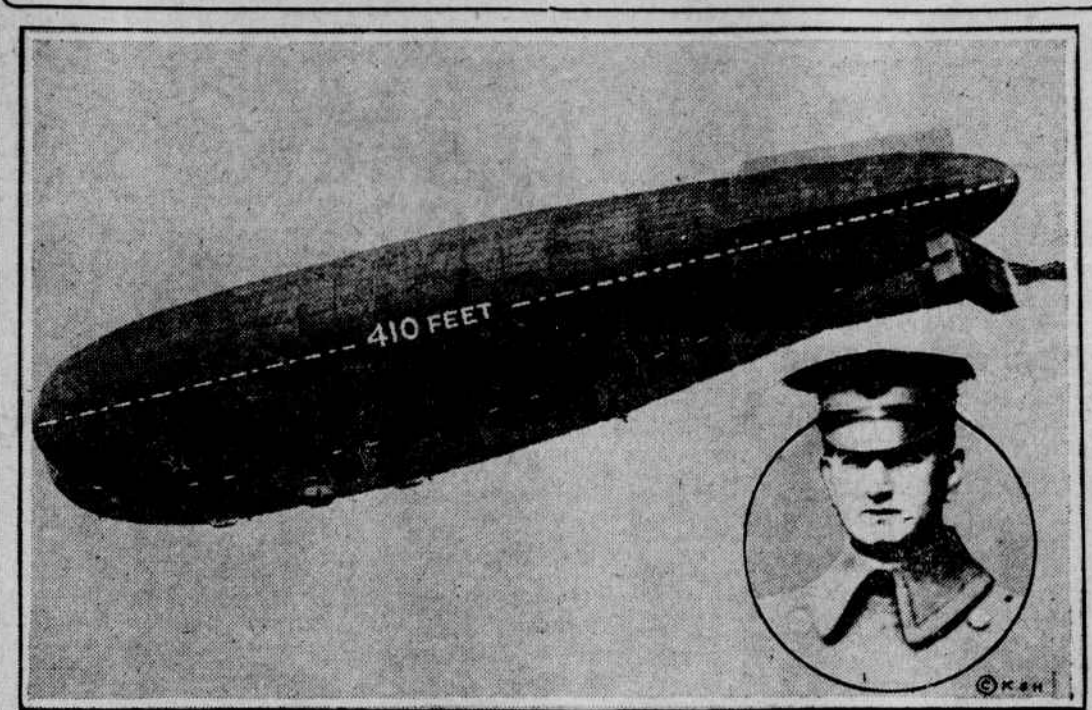
Efforts for Union Won.

To-night the newboys are selling extra announcing the avoidance of a split. This was a most unusual thing for Dublin, but the occasion justified it. Ireland's enemies believed that when outward opposition was taken away Ireland would fall apart. For a time it seemed that if his party defeated Griffith and Collins, Ireland, above mightily for union and now they have about succeeded in preventing a disruption.

De Valera opened the discussion by claiming that the newspapers did not always represent the facts and urging the delegates to keep open minds. Then he recalled the purpose of the Sinn Féin, the rule that a two-thirds vote was required to change the constitution and lamenting the fact that the Dail Eireann did not have such a rule in dealing with foreign affairs as had the United States Senate. He

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The Roma and Her Commander, Capt. Mabry.



SINN FEIN AVERTS IMMEDIATE SPLIT

Convention Adjourns Until To-day, Asking Leaders to Get Together.

UNITY SUPREME DESIRE

Both Collins and De Valera Willing to Submit Treaty to People.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau, Dublin, Feb. 21.

Appeals to the rival elements of Sinn Féin to remember that Ireland comes first, made to-day with deep sincerity at the Ard Fheis—the annual convention of delegates from all the Sinn Féin clubs—have almost succeeded in preventing the threatened split between the Republicans and the provisionals.

This was accepted as a happy augury, for Michael Collins, head of the provisional Government, had revealed that he had spent several hours with Eamon de Valera yesterday attempting to reach a compromise but had failed. De Valera also admitted the failure of this attempt, and came to the Ard Fheis to-day believing that a split was inevitable. In his morning speech he declared it would be better for Ireland to have two armies, each ready to assist the other if the country was imperiled, than one army divided within itself.

In adopting a resolution to adjourn until to-morrow morning the Ard Fheis incorporated in the motion a definite request that the rival leaders meet in the meantime and reach an understanding whereby the organization would remain intact, at least temporarily, and the nation could present a united front to England. At the time of adjournment to-night the demand for unity was supreme.

De Valera objected to holding the coming election on the issue of the London treaty before a constitution was drafted and said that if Arthur Griffith and Collins would guarantee to hold no election for three months he, on behalf of his followers, would agree not to raise any objections to the working of the provisional Government except where principles were concerned, and promised that if his party defeated Griffith and Collins in the Dail Eireann the treaty would nevertheless be submitted to the country.

Collins and Griffith expressed their willingness to give assurances to do their utmost to defer the election until a constitution was drafted, provided De Valera's minority, in the Dail Eireann would guarantee not to attempt to overthrow the Government in the meantime. At the time of adjournment it was increasingly evident that despite the efforts of well intentioned disrupters, the divergence between the two parties was narrowing and there was strong hope that the morning would see an agreement.

VILNA VOTES TO JOIN POLAND BY 96 TO 6

All Russian or Lithuanian Claims Rejected.

VILNA, Lithuania, Feb. 21. (Associated Press).—The Diet to-day by a vote of 96 out of 102 decided for the complete incorporation of Vilna with Poland. There were dramatic scenes in the chamber, where the Polish flag was raised and the Polish national anthem sung.

The resolution just passed accepts absolutely the Polish constitution of 1921 and repudiates all Russian or Lithuanian claims.

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THE DEAD AND SURVIVORS

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.
Official reports of the Roma disaster place the number of dead at thirty-four. Of these thirteen were officers, from the rank of Major to First Lieutenant of the army; sixteen were enlisted men and five civilians. Here is the official list of the dead and the survivors:

- | THE DEAD. | CIVILIANS. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| THORNELL, MAJOR JOHN G. | KINGSTON, PRIVATE. |
| MCNALLY, MASTER SERGEANT. | BLAKELEY, PRIVATE. |
| MABRY, CAPT. DALE. | THOMPSON, PRIVATE. |
| WATTS, CAPT. GEORGE D. | HILL, PRIVATE. |
| MCFARLAND, CAPT. ALLEN P. | |
| DURCHSCHMIDT, CAPT. — | |
| HALL, FIRST LIEUT. J. R. | |
| RILEY, FIRST LIEUT. WILLIAM E. | |
| BURNS, FIRST LIEUT. C. | |
| SMYTHE, FIRST LIEUT. CLIFFORD E. | |
| CUMMINGS, FIRST LIEUT. WALLACE C. | |
| CLINTON, FIRST LIEUT. AMBROSE V. | |
| HINE, FIRST LIEUT. HAROLD. | |
| MURPHY, MASTER SERGEANT. | |
| GORBY, MASTER SERGEANT. | |
| HARRIS, SERGEANT. | |
| HILLIARD, SERGEANT. | |
| REAL, SERGEANT. | |
| TARBOROUGH, SERGEANT. | |
| RYAN, SERGEANT. | |
| HUFFMAN, SERGEANT. | |
| SCHUMACKER, SERGEANT. | |
| HOLMES, SERGEANT. | |
| HEVERON, SERGEANT. | |

SUSPEND STUDENTS AFTER TRINITY FIRES

College Authorities Act as State Police Investigate Sixth of Series.

HARTFORD, Feb. 21.—Two students of Trinity College, one of them a senior prominent in athletics and the other a freshman, have been suspended by the college authorities as a result of several mysterious fires that have started in various buildings recently.

Their suspension was made after they and several other students had been questioned by Robert T. Hurley, Superintendent of the State Police, and Dr. Ramson B. Ogilvy, president of the college. Their names were not made public, as no criminal action has been begun.

The latest of the fires occurred yesterday in the Latin recitation room and in room 41, Jarvis Hall. The authorities of the college believe that both of these were of incendiary origin. The recitation room fire was got under control after it had burned the desk and chair used by Prof. Leroy Barrett, while the Jarvis Hall fire started at midnight and burned a dresser in a bedroom of the dormitory. The room was occupied by William Hunkins of Brooklyn and Raymond Montgomery of New Haven, both of whom were away at the time.

There have been six fires altogether, and it is believed by the college authorities that all of them were set by the same persons. Hartford detectives wanted to take a hand in the investigation, but Dr. Ogilvy told them that they were not wanted, and the inquiry is being handled solely by the State police and the college authorities.

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BROKEN RUDDER LEADS TO WORST DISASTER IN AMERICAN AIR HISTORY

Crew in a Frantic Effort to Avert Tragedy Hurl Out Sand Ballast But Ship Refuses to Respond to Helm.

SOME JUMP FROM BIG CRAFT AS SHE FALLS AT HAMPTON ROADS

Only Those in Forward Compartment Had Chance to Come Out Alive—Accident Follows First Test of Liberty Motors—Helium Gas Not in Use—Stories of Survivors.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 21.—Thirty-four men were killed, eight injured seriously and three uninjured or only slightly bruised when the giant army airship Roma, with her crew and a number of civilians, totaling forty-five in all, aboard, plunged to-day from a thousand feet to the ground at the Hampton Roads naval base.

The accident presumably was caused by a broken rudder, and as the huge dirigible plunged to earth she capsized across a high tension electric line, bursting into a roaring furnace of blazing hydrogen gas. In earlier flights helium, the non-inflammable gas, had been used to inflate the Roma, but because of an insufficiency of helium it had been withdrawn and the highly inflammable hydrogen substituted.

Long after dark to-night, many hours after her fall, the ship was still a mass of flames from end to end of her 410 foot mass. The fire fed on the million cubic feet of gas which had distended the great bag for the flight and made all attempts at rescue work futile.

Barely a dozen of those aboard were picked up alive, and one of these died on the way to the hospital. All who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, penned in the hull of the fallen bag, were burned to death.

All Aboard Airship Are Accounted For.

The flames finally were quenched by three fire departments with chemicals. And then derricks began picking up the wreckage, which consisted of scarcely more than the aluminum framework and the six Liberty motors. Within the wreckage lay the bodies, practically all charred beyond recognition. But before the night had passed thirty-three bodies had been removed, accounting for the last of those who were known to have taken flight on the fatal voyage.

Accounts of survivors and of eyewitnesses on what had happened appeared to agree that the huge kite-like structure of the stern rudder, itself as large as a bombing plane, had slipped to one side as the Roma drove along a thousand feet above the army base.

She was making a trial flight with a new battery of Liberty motors. They were installed to replace Italian engines bought with her in Italy, but which had not proved satisfactory. Installation was completed at Langley Field two weeks ago.

It was just before 2 P. M. when those below at the army post at Hampton Roads base, their attention caught by the approaching thunder of the six motors, looked up to see the Roma dip down from her straight flight. They agreed that the rudder seemed to have slipped bodily down and to one side.

The ship nosed steeply down. As she came closer it was seen that her crew were hurling out sand ballast from the ports in the fragile fabric that formed the covering of the space between her keel and back, the living and operating quarters of the ship. The dipping blunt nose of the bag did not respond. On the ship came, unchecked in her glide earthward, head first. Her commander could not force her the few hundred feet that would have dropped her into the waters of the bay and comparative safety for her people.

Nose Crashes Against Electric Wires.

Below ran the high double wires of the high power electric line; it carried a 2,300 volt current. The Roma's nose, shot with its aluminum guard, thrust into the wires, broke them as the ship flattened to earth and rolled over, and the next moment came the noise as of an explosion and the flames burst out along the hull space.

There was a rush of men to the rescue from the army post and the navy base beyond. Just as the Roma neared the wires two men were seen to leap from high up in her slanting hull. Then ten more dropped from doors or ports or through holes they tore in the fabric sides that inclosed them. Some leaped from the platform where the engines stood, far out from the hull.

So swift was the flare of the gas flame that rescuers were driven back before its terrific heat. They watched helplessly as the great eighty foot bag shriveled in the fierce blaze of the liberated gas. The Roma was a wall of flame a city block long, and until the thousands of gallons of chemicals and water checked the holocaust it was impossible to reach the comrades mangled and dead in that fiery furnace.

The ship left no passenger list behind her when she set out for a brief trial run from Langley. She is known to have carried many officers and men as passengers, however, in addition to her operating crew. As she rose from the field her commander leaned out to signal that he had forty-four persons aboard. It is believed he did not include one civilian on the ship and that she actually carried forty-five.

Officers who knew personally many of the officers and enlisted men were unable to identify a single one of the victims, so badly charred was each—virtually cooked to death in the mass of wreckage when the explosion and flames encompassed them.

Only those in the forward part of the operating compartment of the ship had a chance for their lives. Several were injured severely by jumping, but three came out practically unhurt and were discharged from the hospital within a few hours after the disaster.

Lieut. Burt, who, with Capt. Reed, was the principal pilot of the Roma, was one of these. He jumped when the ship was only a few yards from the ground. A civilian, Roy Harley, also escaped unhurt, as did Master Sergeant Peek.

Of the forty-five who left the Langley Field air station this afternoon, only eleven are known to have survived the accident. Some of these, more dead than alive, lay on their cots at the United States Public Health Service Hospital with burned and broken limbs swathed in bandages. Some had their faces smeared with cream to relieve them of their intense suffering, while others lay asleep or unconscious, with only their closed eyes visible. All who were able to talk were suffering from shock.

Albert Flores, who was in the observers' pit on top of the bag, said: "I felt the ship tilt up from the back and start to slide down. I tried to go back down inside, but then I decided to come out forward again. By that time we hit the earth and I was thrown out on the ground." Flores was burned about the hands and is suffering from shock.

Major J. D. Reardon, who was in the control cabin at the time